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Serial No. 10/586,100 - - - - - 2

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A substantially anhydrous, free-flowing composition suitable as a component for preparing a conditioning hair lightener emulsion comprising:

- an effective hair conditioning amount of a water-dispersible, self-emulsifying, fatty acid-derived conditioner;
- an effective hair lightening amount of at least one peroxy salt compound;
- optionally, an effective hair protective amount of a hair protectant, deswelling agent; and
- optionally, a water-soluble or water-dispersible cosmetic adjuvant;

wherein the composition is maintained as a substantially anhydrous, substantially free-flowing component until being mixed with a separately prepared component comprising an aqueous medium, and wherein, upon being so mixed, substantially immediately forms a conditioning hair lightener emulsion.

2. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 1 wherein the self-emulsifying, fatty acid-derived conditioner comprises a combination of materials selected from the group consisting of a fatty ester, an ethoxylated glyceride, a fatty alcohol, and a fatty ether; ~~ether, and any combination thereof; and any formulation thereof~~ optionally containing includes at least one hydrophilic surfactant.

3. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 1 wherein the self-emulsifying, fatty acid-derived conditioner comprises at least one polyhydric ester selected from the group consisting of a C₃-C₄ polyol ester of a C₆-C₂₂ fatty acid; a glyceryl ester of a C₆-C₂₂ fatty acid and at least one acid selected from the group consisting of citric acid, lactic acid and succinic acid; and a polyethoxylated C₁₂-C₁₈ acylated sorbitol ester.

4. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 1 wherein the self-emulsifying, fatty acid-derived conditioner comprises predominantly a C₈-C₁₀ fatty acid ester of a polyol selected from the group consisting of glycerin, propylene glycol, butylene glycol and mixtures thereof.

Claims 5-7. (Canceled).

Serial No. 10/586,100 - - - - - 3

8. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 1 wherein the self-emulsifying, fatty acid-derived conditioner comprises a caprylic/capric triglyceride, a glyceryl cocoate/citrate/lactate, and a PEG-40 sorbitan peroleate ~~or a combination of two or more of the foregoing.~~

9. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 1 wherein the peroxy salt is selected from the group consisting of an alkali metal persulfate, ammonium persulfate, and mixtures thereof.

10. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 1 wherein the composition comprises a hair protectant, deswelling agent selected from the group consisting of a polyol and a cationic polymer.

11. (Original) The composition of claim 10 wherein the polyol is a carbohydrate.

12. (Original) The composition of claim 11 wherein the carbohydrate is a starch hydrolysate.

13. (Original) The composition of claim 12 wherein the starch hydrolysate is a maltodextrin.

14. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 1 containing a cosmetic adjuvant comprising a cationic polymer as an auxiliary hair conditioning agent.

15. (Original) The composition of claim 14 wherein the cationic polymer is polyquaternium-6.

16. (Previously Presented) A conditioning hair lightener emulsion prepared from at least two separate components, (A) and (B), wherein Component (A) is a substantially anhydrous, free-flowing composition of claim 1 and Component (B) comprises an aqueous medium containing an effective hair lightening amount of hydrogen peroxide or source thereof, and wherein the hair lightener emulsion has a pH of at least about 8.

17. (Original) The conditioning hair lightener emulsion of claim 16 wherein a hair protectant, deswelling agent is present in at least one of Component (A) and (B).

18. (Currently Amended) A method of lightening hair comprising the steps of:

(i) ~~(f)~~ contacting substantially dry hair with the conditioning hair lightener emulsion of claim 16 and distributing the composition therethrough,

Serial No. 10/586,100 - - - - - 4

(ii) maintaining the applied conditioning hair lightener emulsion in contact with the hair for a period sufficient to visibly lighten the color of the hair to a desired shade level, to provide lightened hair, optionally contacting the so-lightened hair with an aqueous acidic medium having a pH of not more than about 5, and

(iii) removing the hair lightener emulsion from the lightened hair.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein step (iii) is performed by rinsing the hair with water.

Claim 20. (Canceled).

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18 wherein the post-lightening aqueous acidic medium, when employed, contains a cationic polymer.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18 wherein the lightened hair is contacted with a post-lightening cationic conditioner after step (iii) and the post-lightening cationic conditioner is removed from the conditioned, lightened hair with water.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18 further including the step (iv) of washing the lightened hair with a shampoo having a pH in the range of about 4 to about 6.

24. (Previously Presented) A conditioning hair lightener system comprising at least two components, Component (A) and Component (B), wherein:

Component (A) is a composition of claim 1 and

Component (B) is an aqueous medium containing hydrogen peroxide or hydrogen peroxide source,

wherein Component (A) and Component (B) are maintained separate, and substantially immediately before use, Component (A) and Component (B) are mixed together to provide a conditioning hair lightening emulsion having a pH of at least about 8.

25. (Previously Presented) The conditioning hair lightener system of claim 24 further including a separate component comprising a post-lightening aqueous acidic medium having a pH of not more than about 5; a post-lightening cationic hair conditioner; a post-lightening shampoo having a pH in the range of about pH 4 to about 6; or combination of two or more of the foregoing.

Claims 26-27. (Canceled).

Serial No. 10/586,100 - - - - - 5

28. (Previously Presented) The conditioning hair lightener system of claim 24 wherein Component (A) includes a cationic polymer.

29. (Previously Presented) The conditioning hair lightener system of claim 24 wherein at least one of Component (A) or Component (B) includes a hair protective, deswelling agent.

30. (Previously Presented) The conditioning hair lightener system of claim 25 wherein the post-lightening, aqueous acidic medium, when present, includes a nonionic polymer, a cationic polymer or combination thereof.

31. (Previously Presented) An article of manufacture comprising a kit containing at least one composition of claim 1 in packaged form.

Claim 32. (Canceled).

33. (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture of claim 31 further including at least one separately packaged component selected from the group consisting of:

- an aqueous medium containing hydrogen peroxide or hydrogen peroxide source;
- a post-lightening aqueous acidic medium having a pH of not more than about 5;
- a post-lightening cationic hair conditioner;
- a post-lightening shampoo having a pH in the range of about 4 to about 6;
- a hair lightening implement; and
- instructional indicia.

Claim 34. (Canceled).